

The Democrats were saying that would not work, and we came up with a prescription drug program under Medicare. We basically said that just like under Medicare now, they can pay so much per month in a premium to get their doctor bills paid. Most seniors pay a premium, so much per month under what is called part B of Medicare; and after the first \$100 deductible, 80 percent of the costs of their doctor bills are paid for by the Federal Government. We propose, as Democrats, doing the same thing with prescription drugs. A senior would pay about a \$25 per-month premium. They would have a \$100 deductible for the first \$100 in drugs; and after that, 80 percent of the costs would be paid for by the Federal Government for all the prescription drug needs up to \$2,500 a year, at which time everything would be paid for at 100 percent by the Federal Government.

What we did in our Medicare benefit program in our proposal, by contrast to the Republicans, is we said the Secretary of Health and Human Services would be mandated to negotiate lower prices for all the seniors that were in the Medicare program, about 30 to 40 million seniors. Following up on what the Federal Government does with the Veterans Administration or with the military, we said the Secretary of Health and Human Services would be mandated to bring down costs for prescription drugs in the Medicare program because he would have the power to negotiate. We estimate that would bring down the cost of prescription drugs maybe 30, 40 percent over what they are now.

The Republicans totally rejected the idea of expanding Medicare to include prescription drugs. They just want people to go out and buy their own private health insurance, and they put in their bill which passed the House of Representatives that the head of the Medicare program or the head of the prescription drug program that they were proposing would not have any authority to negotiate price reductions, in fact, would be forbidden from doing so.

Why are they doing this? They are doing this because they do not want anything to negatively impact the drug companies. What the drug companies have been doing in this House of Representatives is very clear. From the very beginning they were giving huge amounts of money to the Republicans. They had a big fund raiser for them one night a couple of months ago when we were actually having these bills in committee being marked up, when they wrote the bill, the Republican bill, to make sure it was not an expansion of Medicare and did not impact costs in any way for drugs; and then they started putting up ads on TV where they promoted the Republican candidates for Congress or the Republican incumbents who voted for their own drug bill and said that people should vote for them because they are doing a very good job and providing people with a

prescription drug benefit, which is simply not true.

We heard that this year United Seniors, which is basically a front for PHARMA, for the prescription name drug industry has pumped another 10, or I do not know how many, millions of dollars into an ad campaign. The bottom line is that the drug companies are going to do whatever they can with their Republican allies in Congress to make sure the issue of price is not addressed.

What are the Democrats saying about price? We heard my colleague from Ohio. He has introduced a bill similar to what passed the Senate that basically tries to encourage generic drugs by eliminating some of the barriers that the name-brand drug companies have put in place that make it more difficult under the patent system for generic drugs to come to market.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, we can address this in so many ways, but we have to get to the cost issue; otherwise we are not going to get to the problem.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KERNS). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, You are our light and our salvation. In Your hands is the faith of this Nation, for we place all our trust in You.

You claim the hearts of the powerful. Bestow Your wisdom upon the Members of the House of Representatives, that they may draw from the foundation of Your counsel and place You in all their thoughts and deeds.

The many talents of these women and men in government reflect Your splendor and manifest the diversity of this Nation. May their work today give the world hope and joy. For You are Lord of all and work through all, both now and forever. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MORELLA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Private Calendar. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

#### NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

#### JAMES D. BENOIT AND WAN SOOK BENOIT

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 1834) for the relief of retired Sergeant First Class James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the Senate bill as follows:

S. 1834

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. REQUIREMENT TO PAY CLAIMS.

(a) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit, jointly, the sum of \$415,000, in full satisfaction of all claims described in subsection (b), such amount having been determined by the United States Court of Federal Claims as being equitably due the said James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit pursuant to a referral of the matter to that court by Senate Resolution 129, 105th Congress, 1st session, for action in accordance with sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code.

(b) COVERED CLAIMS.—Subsection (a) applies with respect to all claims of the said James D. Benoit, Wan Sook Benoit, and the estate of David Benoit against the United States for compensation and damages for the wrongful death of David Benoit, the minor child of the said James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit, pain and suffering of the said David Benoit, loss of the love and companionship of the said David Benoit by the said James D. Benoit and Wan Sook Benoit, and the wrongful retention of remains of the said David Benoit, all resulting from a fall sustained by the said David Benoit, on June 28, 1983, from an upper level window while occupying military family housing supplied by the Army in Seoul, Korea.